

Crease, Neil

From: Terry Evans <Terry.Evans@wrexham.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 July 2019 16:25
To: Wales
Subject: Welsh Govt Ref/Planning Inspectorate Ref: H6955/A/19/322571
Attachments: IMG_0898.JPG; IMG_0896.JPG; IMG_0899.JPG; IMG_0897.JPG; IMG_0895.JPG

27 July 2019

Planning Ref: P2018 0551

Welsh Govt Ref/Planning Inspectorate Ref: H6955/A/19/322571

Dear Sir,

I write in relation to the Section 78 Appeal at Kronospan Ltd, Holyhead Road, Chirk, Wrexham.

As the elected representative of Chirk South on Wrexham County Borough Council, I wish to express my concern at the application.

I believe the information contained in the application made by Kronospan relating to the development of an Orientated Strand Board Production Facility is flawed.

In particular, the application fails to address the severe detrimental impact of the additional lorry movements that would result from this development.

The application acknowledges the current level of lorry movements out of the factory each day (or per 24 hour period) to be 752. The development would see this increase - according to the applicant - by 24 per cent. In other words, nearly 1,000 in a 24 hour period. Of course, the actual figure could be even higher should production demand it.

This level of traffic is simply unacceptable. The access into the factory is via the B5070 road, the main route through Chirk. The road is simply not able to sustain this level of HGV use, with the surface having to be continuously repaired due to the appearance of potholes and drains and manhole covers being damaged as their foundations crumble under the weight of the lorries.

In addition, the debris falling from the lorries - sawdust and wood chippings - coats the road and blocks the drains, further exacerbating the problem. In an environment of reducing council budgets, the maintenance of the road is serious concern. I have attached some photographs of damage caused to the road by the lorry to illustrate this point.

The diesel fumes emitted by the lorries are also a key concern, particularly as the dangers of such emissions are becoming better understood. The entrance to the factory is just a few hundred yards from Ysgol y Waun and the pollution and increased traffic represents a serious risk to the health and well-being of our children.

The noise generated by the additional lorry movements must also be considered - it creates 24 hour disruption for residents on top of the noise emitted by the factory which will surely increase again significantly if this development goes ahead.

It is also worth noting there is great concern at the lack of effective monitoring of noise, dust and other emissions from this site. Some members of the community have reported recording noise readings up to 90 decibels from the

site, which has been reported in the local press. This is very clearly at odds with the noise levels claimed in the applicant's report.

It is further worth noting that Kronospan acknowledges that problems with the weigh bridge have caused queues of lorries waiting to enter the factory site. This increases diesel pollution and creates a safety hazard as other road users attempt to pass the queueing lorries.

The application should also be seen in the wider context of Kronospan owning land off the B5070 which is the subject of plans to build 180 houses, as outlined in the Wrexham's Local Development Plan. The further increase in traffic created by a development of such a scale must surely be considered.

In short, the answer must surely be that Kronospan needs to create a new access road into the factory from the A5 roundabout just outside of Chirk. This would alleviate the pressure on the B5070, improving both the environment and road safety which, as I say, is a key concern given the close proximity of Ysgol y Waun.

I would urge the Planning Inspectorate to reject this application and ask that any future application includes plans for a new access road into the factory.

Yours faithfully,

Terry Evans

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